

REMARKS**Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 2-7, 14-17, 19-21, 23-25, 27-30, 32-35, 37-39, 42-45, 47-50 and 52-54 have been cancelled.

Claims 1 and 62 have been amended to recite "...the minimum interval between any two doses is a period of at least about 1 week." Support for these amendments is found, for example, in dependent claim 17, at page 3, lines 5-6 and at page 17, lines 6-7.

Claims 1, 22, 40, 62 and 66 have been amended to recite "...wherein said immunoglobulin or fragment has binding specificity for the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ complex." Support for these amendments is found in dependent claim 4 and at page 2, lines 24-27.

Claims 22 and 40 have been amended to be independent.

Claim 58 has been amended to delete mastitis, cholecystitis and asthma from the list of diseases.

Support for new claims 70-72 is found, for example, at page 15, lines 25-29 and at page 16, lines 24-25.

Support for new claims 73-75 is found, for example, at page 17, lines 9-11.

Support for new claims 76 and 78 is found, for example, at page 24, lines 12-14.

Support for new claims 77 and 79 is found, for example, at page 22, lines 15-21 and at page 23, lines 1-5.

Reply to Requirement for Species Election

The Examiner required two elections of species, (a) the method that uses a chimeric antibody or the method that uses a humanized antibody; and (b) the method of claims 1 and 62, drawn to a method for treatment, and the method of claim 66, drawn to a method for inhibiting relapse and/or recurrence.

Responsive to the Requirement for Species Election dated June 20, 2007, Applicants hereby elect: (a) the claimed method that uses a humanized antibody, and (b) the method of claims 1 and 62. Claims encompassing the elected species are claims 1, 8-13, 18, 22, 26, 31, 36, 40, 41, 46, 51, 55-65 and 70-79.

With respect to the election of species (b), the specification teaches that "treatment" includes therapeutic treatment and maintenance therapy. (Specification at page 15, lines 21-24.) Thus, it appears that the Examiner may have intended to require election between a method of therapeutic treatment and a method of maintenance therapy. If this were the Examiner's intention, the species of therapeutic treatment is elected. Claims encompassing the elected species are Claims 1, 8-13, 18, 22, 26, 31, 36, 40, 41, 46, 51, 55-65 and 70-79.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By 

Kristin A. Connarn
Registration No. 57,025
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Date: November 16, 2007